

COMHAIRLE CATHRACH AGUS CONTAE PHORT LÁIRGE
WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL
Meeting of the Metropolitan District held by Zoom on 19th July 2021 @ 5.00pm

Present:

Cllr. Seamus Ryan (Mayor)	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. Joanne Bailey	Cllr. Eddie Mulligan
Cllr. Donal Barry	Cllr. Jason Murphy
Cllr. Davy Daniels	Cllr. Lola O’Sullivan
Cllr. Pat Fitzgerald	Cllr. Eamonn Quinlan
Cllr. Susan Gallagher	Cllr. Frank Quinlan
Cllr. Jim Griffin	Cllr. Mary Roche
Cllr. John Hearne	Cllr. Adam Wyse
Cllr. Joe Kelly	

Apologies:

Cllr. Joe Conway

Officials in attendance:

Mr. F. Galvin, District Manager Metropolitan Area
 Mr. I. Grimes, DoS Housing
 Ms. H. Dunphy, Meetings Administrator
 Mr. L. McGree, Senior Planner
 Mr. A. Kirwan, EE Roads
 Ms. B. Stosic, A/SEE, Roads
 Ms. L. Grant, SSO, Economic Development
 Ms. A. O’Shea, Corporate Department

Roll call taken by meetings administrator.

Election of Deputy Mayor Metropolitan District

F. Galvin, DoS advised the meeting that the process for the election of the Deputy Mayor at the AGM had not been concluded in accordance with Section 37 of the 2001 Local Government Act. He noted that the none of the three nominees had gained a majority of votes of those Members present and voting and as such the process needed to be concluded by the elimination of the candidate with the lowest number of votes, Cllr. J. Griffin, and a further poll between the two remaining candidates.

A number of questions were dealt with concerning the process and the options available. A number of Members expressed disappointment that the process was not completed and stated it was important for the dignity and integrity of the position for the process be in accordance with the Act.

It was agreed to proceed as advised with the elimination of Cllr. J. Griffin and a further poll was held between the two remaining candidates, Cllr. J Power and Cllr J Murphy.

A roll call vote was taken which resulted as follows:-

Cllr. Jason Murphy	Cllr. Jody Power
Cllr. D. Barry	Cllr. J. Bailey
Cllr. D. Daniels	Cllr. P. Fitzgerald
Cllr. J. Kelly	Cllr. S. Gallagher

Cllr. E. Mulligan	Cllr. J. Griffin
Cllr. J. Murphy	Cllr. J. Hearne
Cllr. L. O'Sullivan	
Cllr. J. Power	
Cllr. E. Quinlan	
Cllr. F. Quinlan	
Cllr. M. Roche	
Cllr. S. Ryan	
Cllr. A. Wyse	
12	5

Cllr. J. Murphy was duly declared elected Deputy Mayor of Waterford Metropolitan District.

Vote of Sympathy

It was unanimously resolved that this Council extends its sympathy to the families of the late:

- Sandro Cavaliere
- Dominic Hearne
- Phyllis Lenihan
- William Murphy.

Votes of Congratulations

It was unanimously resolved that this council extends its congratulations to all who are competing in the Olympic Games, to all those involved in the Inner-City Gardens and to Seamus Power with his current golfing successes.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Meeting held on 21st June, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Roche seconded by Cllr. Fitzgerald and agreed by all.

Minutes from the Metropolitan District Annual General Meeting held on 21st June, 2021 were proposed by Cllr. Wyse seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

2. Matters Arising

Cllr. Roche looked for update on meeting with residents of Williamstown Glen.

Cllr. Kelly asked for a correction to the minutes and for the plaque referred to is 'International Brigade'.

Cllr. Power looked for update on acknowledgment of correspondence sent in by residents of Williamstown Glen.

I. Grimes, DoS, stated a coordinated response will issue in respect of the Williamstown Glen and Mount William matters.

3. Reports

Cllr. Murphy asked if the surface of the square in Larchville which was damaged during the construction of infill housing could be resurfaced stating the residents were very cooperative during the construction

works. He asked if Planning could look at derelict commercial properties in the city with a view to converting them into social/private housing. He stated that there is no uniformity in the outdoor dining furniture which makes the streets look untidy he said the furniture needs to be coordinated.

Cllr. E. Quinlan asked if the maintenance of the houses in Belmont Heights and Abbeylands could be transferred to Kilkenny County Council as the houses are in the political area of Kilkenny and Waterford Council could reimburse the cost of maintenance. He also asked if the two vacant school sites in Tramore could be CPO'd and retained in public ownership so the Department of Education could develop them at a future date.

Cllr. Griffin stated that the water quality at a number of beaches with warning notices needs to be rectified. He asked that the speed limit on the Airport Road at Ballygarron be reduced as the residents have expressed concerns about road safety issues there and if the Gardaí would engage in enforcement of the speed limit there.

I. Grimes, DoS, said he will look at the square in Larchville and see if it can be resurfaced as part of the housing contract. He stated that the houses in Ferrybank are part of a legacy and his priority is providing a good service but he will review with his counterpart in Kilkenny County Council.

F. Galvin, DoS noted that there had been a number of water quality issues at some beaches following heavy rainfall, that these were being monitored and the water quality was now at a satisfactory level. He advised that Irish Water had upgraded the wastewater pumps at the Pier in Tramore and the water quality there was subject to ongoing testing and reporting. With respect to Ballygarron, he stated that a review of the Special Speed Limit Bye Laws will commence later this year and submissions can be made to reduce the speed limit and he will also liaise with the Gardaí.

L. McGree, SP said that he is working with Economic Development regarding the S.254 Licences and uniformity of street furniture. Fáilte Ireland are also allocating grants for street furniture which will be coordinated by Economic Development. He stated that they are always reviewing Derelict Sites and will talk to Property Management regarding the CPO of the two vacant schools in Tramore.

Cllr. Barry asked that all Departments work together to find a solution to allow residents of O'Connell Street to live in the Cultural Quarter along with the businesses. He asked that the gradient of the footpath's in Lower Grange/the Folly be checked to allow wheelchair access and he welcomed the temporary lifeguard hut at the men's slip but asked for proper signage to be erected on it.

Cllr. Mulligan asked for a footfall comparison for 2019 prior to the pandemic. He looked for update on development in Michael Street and asked if there is anything the Council can do to assist the developers in Gracedieu with the delay in getting permission for the 278 units under the LIHAF Scheme. He also looked for an update on the cost of rubbish removal at the Halting Sites asking if there was any reduction in costs.

Cllr. Gallagher stated an initiative had been launched in Cork '€300K have your say' which allows public to put forward projects and she was wondering if that would be something that could be considered in future budgets. She asked about the position of waste bins being left out on footpaths as a fine was issued to a resident who had their waste bin on the footpath. She looked for update on funding drawn down for Traveller Accommodation and asked that a percentage of outdoor seating be allocated for wheelchair users.

I. Grimes, DoS, said that the apartments in the city centre were allocated through CBL but he will work with other Departments to ensure a quality of life for the residents, he will be putting up proper signage on the lifeguard hut and both himself and Planning will be engaging with the developer of units in Gracedieu. He said there has been a low level of activity under TAP but hopes to bring a Part 8 proposal to Council in the coming months and stated that €200K had been applied for works at the Halting Sites in Dunganvan 18 months ago but payment hasn't been received.

L. McGree, SP said that there are no final proposals for Michael Street but plans are being worked on currently.

L. Grant, SSO, said that she can provide footfall numbers for 2019 under the historic system but they would not be comparable to later years as the system to measure footfall had been changed.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will ask the Area Engineer to look at the footpaths in Lower Grange/Folly. He said the '€300K have your say' initiative would be a matter for the Councillors to propose when drafting the next Budget. There are Bye Laws for the presentation of wheelie bins which curtail the times that bins can left on the footpaths and following recent complaints from both residents and Councillors, a number of warning letters and fines had issued to repeat offenders.

Cllr. Roche raised concerns regarding the plans for the North Quays and stated that work needs to move quickly over the next 2 months. She looked for details as to the resources dedicated to the progressing of the North Quays. She looked for update on the River Suir walkway stating that it needs to be joined up and progressed into the city and also update on the cleaning of the canopy on the Plaza. She stated that there is a derelict site backing onto Philip Street/Upper Yellow Road and looked for update from Planning. She asked what the plans for the People's Park are following the recruitment of 2 craft gardeners.

Cllr. Fitzgerald stated that Ozanam House which is derelict is infested with rodents and is a health hazard for residents in the area and needs to be cleared. He asked for the overgrown hedgerow on the footpath between Faithlegg School and the church to be cut back and asked who is responsible for water running off public roads onto farmer's lands.

Cllr. Bailey looked for update on the fountain and flower beds in the People's Park. She asked if the speed limit could be reduced near the entrance to Butlerstown GAA pitch or caution signs be erected. She asked could signs be erected advising people to take home their rubbish or set up a new initiative similar to 'Take 3 for the sea' to promote taking home rubbish from the beaches and parks and asked if there were any 4 Bedroom properties available on CBL as she has been getting requests from her constituents.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that works on the infrastructure of the North Quays is proceeding with first contract to be awarded shortly and significant efforts are ongoing by the Chief Executive to source an alternative developer. He said plans are being finalised for the next phase of the Suir River walk at the Glanbia site and he will be looking to advance plans for a further link towards the City Centre later in the year. He has issued a contract for the Plaza to be painted and cleaned and hopes that the works would commence shortly. He said it would take time before we can see a difference in the planting in the People's Park stating the two craft gardeners will concentrate on the parks in the city. He stated the responsibility for cutting back the hedgerow lies with the adjoining property owners, and he will make contact with them. Under the Acts landowners must allow water runoff from public roads but he will ask the Area Engineer to check the culverts in this particular area to make sure there are not blocked. Preliminary work on the tender for the fountain in the People's Park has commenced. He will ask the Area Engineer to check the visibility around the traffic signs at Butlerstown GAA pitch and again noted that the Special Speed Limit Bye Laws will be reviewed later in year and submissions can be made. With respect to initiatives to encourage people to take their litter home he advised that a 'Leave No Trace' campaign had been launched recently through both signage at amenity areas and social media which will be ongoing over the summer months.

I. Grimes, DoS stated the requirement for 4 bed houses is small and asked Cllr. Bailey to provide details.

L. McGree, SP will check if Ozanam House is on the Derelict Sites register and if not will carry out inspection. He is working with Irish Wheelchair Association to ensure universal access with no obstructions on outdoor furniture as per new guidelines and he will check house in Philip Street/Lower Yellow Road and will follow up.

Cllr. Hearne complimented the residents of the square in Larchville stating that they were very patient with the works and again asked that the square be resurfaced following the works on the infill housing. He also thanked the Council for the leasing of rooms in Francis Court stating it is a great initiative and

expressed concern for parking in Ballymacaw and traffic safety because of the opening of the new walkway.

Cllr. Power stated the development of the North Quays is an important flagship for the Southeast and asked for a workshop to be held in September. He also stated the footpaths in Cheekpoint are overgrown and looked for update on the removal of the electricity pole in the middle of the new footpath which makes it impossible for a buggy or wheelchair to pass. He looked for update on the Halting Site in Carrickphierish and while welcoming the designation of lands in Bilberry he looked for update on the goats.

Cllr. Kelly looked for update on development at the former Flynn's pub in Ferrybank stating that the residents have concerns, he asked how the apartments will be let when completed. He stated that bin lorries are causing damage to footpaths and asked if the Council have any control with this issue. He raised concerns with the wall built at the rear of the Halting Site in Kilbarry stating that it was a health & safety hazard should a fire breakout. The ditches at the DeLaSalle pitch in Cleaboy need to be cut back and work on the fountain in the People's Park needs to commence as soon as possible.

I. Grimes, DoS said he will look at damage caused by construction work in the square in Larchville, he stated the Part 8 for 7 bays in Carrickphierish was not approved by councillors, but he is working on revised plans. He said the Part 8 for Flynn's pub was published and he would encourage submissions and hopes to bring back to meeting in September or October. All Halting Sites were inspected by the Fire Officer and the wall was not identified as a risk and he is hoping to bring a Part 8 to replace all housing in the Kilbarry Halting Site to the Council before year end.

F. Galvin, DoS stated that the Department of Agriculture would be the responsible body for welfare of the Bilberry Goats. He again stated that it is the responsibility of the adjoining landowners to cut back ditches and will make contact with the landowners. He would encourage public to report damage to footpaths giving full details so the companies can be pursued and pay compensation. He will talk to the Area Engineer regarding the ESB pole in the middle of the footpath in Cheekpoint and will talk to Economic Development to organise a Workshop on the North Quays.

Cllr. Daniels paid compliments to the staff at the Municipal Golf Club stating the grounds are in pristine condition and asked for update on the proposed plans for the driving range there. He asked for the crossing at St. Joseph & St. Benildus church on Newtown Road to be improved. He looked for update on the lighting at the Vinery, Somerville Avenue, funding for works at Ballygunner Temple graveyard, dressing rooms at RSC and stated that an all-weather pitch is needed there and lighting in the People's Park.

Cllr. F. Quinlan asked if communication boards for children with special needs could be erected in our playgrounds, could the road between Barrack Street and Trinity Square be resurfaced as it is in a bad state especially outside Newport Square and he looked for an update on the Goff Track following the Environment SPC meeting.

Cllr. O'Sullivan asked if a pump track could be installed beside the inclusion park in Tramore and stated that there is a hole in one of the ramps in the skate park which needs to be fixed. She welcomed the one-way system planned for the Cliff Road which will start immediately. She stated that the issue with water quality at the Pier needs to be resolved and welcomed the opening of the toilets there and she concurred with Cllr. Barry regarding the temporary signage at the Lifeguard hut. She paid compliments to the outdoor staff on keeping Tramore so clean and appealed to all to park safely while at the beaches.

I. Grimes, DoS would echo Cllr. Daniels compliments to staff at the Municipal Golf Course and stated that a full review is taking place and report will be brought to Council. He said there wasn't enough budget to build dressing rooms at the RSC.

F. Galvin, DoS said he will look at improving the crossing at St. Benildus Church, they are waiting on an ESB connection for the lights at Somerville, he will enquire about responsibility for graveyards, will look at communication boards, has noted resurface works for Barrack Street and stated that the Environment

SPC are meeting tomorrow and the development of the People's Park is on the agenda for discussion. He will arrange for repairs at the skate park and will keep the one-way system running until the end of the Summer and review at that stage. He will pass on compliments to the outdoor staff.

The Mayor asked that disability swings be provided in our public parks to benefit children with disabilities.

4. Section 38 Road Traffic Act 1994 – Traffic Calming Scheme Faithlegg School

F. Galvin, DoS, outlined details of the Section 38, works will include the widening and upgrade of the footpath adjacent and opposite to Faithlegg School, improved road markings, widening and reconstruction of the existing footpath and construction of a new push button crossing located outside the school entrance on the L4082 Cheekpoint Road. The goal of this scheme is to achieve an improved pedestrian crossing point for children entering the school and encouraging children to walk to school with a safe crossing point from the locality. The scheme was advertised for public consultation and approval by the members was recommended.

Proposed for adoption by Cllr. Roche, seconded by Cllr. Power and agreed by all.

5. Taking in Charge of Housing Estates/Roads - Metropolitan Area.

F. Galvin, DoS gave overview of the proposal of taking in charge of the following listed roads which had been circulated with the agenda and which was advertised in accordance with the Roads Act 1993, on 28th April, 2021.

- Kill St. Lawrence
- 3 No. Units, The Pines, Ballinakill
- The Fairways, Dunmore East
- The Woods, Dunmore East
- Monvoy Valley, Tramore

The Taking in Charge was proposed by Cllr. Fitzgerald and seconded by Cllr. Daniels and agreed.

Cllr. Fitzgerald looked for update on taking in charge of roads in other estates in Dunmore East and Cllr. Daniels looked for update on The Paddock's Williamstown Road. Cllr. E. Quinlan looked for clarification on the taking in charge of roads in Monvoy Valley.

F. Galvin, DoS, stated that there are issues to be resolved with the estates mentioned and will come back to Council once resolved. He confirmed that all roads in Monvoy Valley are being taken in charge.

8. Correspondence

None

9. Motions

None

10. AOB

Cllr. Roche asked when meeting can be held back in person.

Cllr. Daniels asked why the Zoom ratings are not high.

Cllr. Griffin concurred with Cllr. Roche regarding the site at Philip St./Lower Yellow Road stating that it was an ideal opportunity for Housing to build homes for the elderly.

F. Galvin, DoS advised that the return to in person meetings would depend on the national situation and national guidance on indoor meetings and events allowed. He expected a further update on this in September.

Councillors wished Catherine Horan best wishes on her retirement and thanked her for all her support.

The Mayor outlined that he will organise a workshop to discuss the North Quays and Michael Street in September.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed: _____
Mayor

Dated: _____